

Ad. & Rve., but its compressed carina, tortuous peristome (somewhat similar in outline to that of *P. naso*, Marts.), and different coloration separate it from the other species of that group.

Papuina spadicea, sp. n.

Shell imperforate, trochiform, moderately solid, shining, light brown, with a white spiral band at periphery of body-whorl, bordered by a narrow brown band beneath, some brown spots behind basal margin of peristome; suture simple, margined by a narrow white band on penultimate whorl; whorls $5\frac{1}{4}$, moderately convex, regularly increasing, obliquely striated, faintly decussated by microscopic striæ, last shortly descending, bluntly carinate at periphery in front only; aperture oval, lighter within, outer markings showing through; peristome slightly thickened, broadly expanded at columellar and basal margins, extreme edge white, bordered (except columella, which is whitish) by dark brown, margins curved.

Mag. diam. 28, alt. 22 millim.

Hab. New Mecklenburg Island (*C. Wahnes*).

Allied to *P. Boyeri*, Fis. & Bern., but less carinated in front of last whorl, and the peristome is curved at junction of basal and outer margins, not obtusely angled as in that species.

The oblique lines of growth of *P. spadicea* are decussated by scarcely discernible subspiral striæ, whereas in *P. Boyeri* they are comparatively conspicuous, giving a somewhat malleated appearance to the surface of the body-whorl. From *P. humilis* it can be distinguished by its different coloration, subcarinate last whorl, its less oblique peristome, and higher spire.

Some specimens of *P. spadicea* have a more or less interrupted spiral band of dark brown situated just below the white peripheral zone.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

Zoology. An Elementary Text-Book. (*Cambridge Natural Science Manuals.*) By A. E. SHIPLEY, M.A., and E. W. MACBRIDE, M.A. Cambridge University Press.

THE authors' endeavour in writing this book has been to produce "an elementary treatise on zoology which could readily be understood by a student who had no previous knowledge of the subject." This was undoubtedly a most praiseworthy aim, and few, we think, will deny that it has been most successfully accomplished. The

work is progressive in character, so that "the later chapters will be intelligible to the beginner only if he has read the earlier."

The first twelve pages are devoted to a brief but admirable introduction, dealing with general principles. Following this come two chapters dealing with the several phyla from the Protozoa up to Man, and these are excellent, being lucidly written and bringing the essential characters of the several groups well to the front.

When the standard of excellence is so high it seems ungracious to suggest that improvements are still possible; but we venture to think that in a future edition the chapter on the Protozoa might be slightly extended, so as to give a little more space to the Mycetozoa and *Hæmamœba*, and allow of a reference to *Volvox* and *Pandorina*. We have failed to find any allusion to the remarkable absence of cilia in the Arthropoda, and would suggest that that portion of the chapter on Birds dealing with the vexed question of classification and the structure of the palate should be revised.

The significance of the cœlom has received special emphasis by the removal of the Platyhelminthes, Nemertines, Rotifera, and Nematoda to the end of the book, since in all these this organ is conspicuous by its absence. By such transference the authors have been enabled to trace a series of organisms, from the Cœlentera to Man, all of which possess in some form or other this particular organ. Having regard to the aims of this work, such a course can readily be justified.

The illustrations are very numerous, well selected, and unusually well executed.

Dragons of the Air. By H. G. SEELEY, F.R.S. Methuen & Co.,
36 Essex Street, W.C., London, 1901.

PROF. SEELEY is admittedly one of the greatest authorities in all that concerns that ancient group of animals known as the Ornithosauria. For him these creatures have excited a quite peculiar interest, which has lasted throughout the whole of his long scientific career, and to-day he gives us, in a popular form, his conclusions concerning their origin, development, habits, and affinities, under the title of 'Dragons of the Air.'

A specially intimate knowledge of any given group of animals frequently leads the investigator to conceptions which run more or less counter to the generally accepted notions concerning that group; when this is the case, a serried array of well-marshalled facts is usually sufficient to oust the old ideas and establish the new, tradition being broken down by the force of the newly presented data.

Prof. Seeley's book is undoubtedly bristling with novelties, but we very seriously doubt whether he will succeed in making a single convert. The restorations, which are numerous, appear of themselves highly improbable, and we venture to doubt whether the arguments brought forward for their justification will carry conviction.